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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Melekian, et al.

Serial No.: 09/779,961

Filed: 02/09/2001

Group Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: McHenry, Kevin L.

For: METHOD FOR WELDING AN AXLE HOUSING

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
TO OFFICE ACTION DATED JULY 2, 2002

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 2, 2002 (Paper No.

3). Please amend the application as follows:

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please make the following changes to the claims. A marked up version of the original claims is attached as Appendix 1.

A)

1. (Amended) A method of welding comprising the steps of:
providing a differential housing surface;
providing a blank surface;
generating heat from at least one of these surfaces at their interface sufficient to weld the surfaces together; and
applying the surfaces together.